

Heidsieck, Emile John

1916

[Commission for Relief in Belgium]

(C O P Y)

THE COMMISSION FOR RELIEF IN BELGIUM

120 Broadway, New York.

New York, 28th July, 1916.

c/o Mr. J. S. Neeser,
247 Fifth Avenue,
City.

Mr. Howland Wood,
Curator, The American Numismatic Society,
City.

Dear Sir:-

Confirming our conversation of yesterday I beg to state the following:-

I left Brussels on the 17th of April last and my friend Mr. Devreese gave me a certain quantity of medals and "plaquettes" to be disposed of in the U. S. While embarking in Rotterdam I was told that I had to get a permit from the British authorities and as I had no time to do so, I left the case in charge of the Holland America line in Rotterdam. Besides I cannot afford to pay the duty on goods that I am not certain of selling here.

Being an American citizen (having left the country while a child and residing in Paris and Brussels since) there will be no difficulty of getting permission to ship the goods. I may add that said case contains a few water color pictures of famous sites in Belgium, and a few toys made by wounded soldiers belonging to the "Union patriotique des femmes Belges" (under the presidency of the Comtesse de Merode) which is a very deserving charity concern.

The medals are Belgian subjects including portraits of Queen and King, General Leman, and amongst the plaquettes there are new designs which are "simply exquisite." You will find list enclosed. I have full rights on some of them.

Now I would like to know whether one of your members could help me to dispose of these articles.

There are several schemes:

1. To buy the articles outright.
2. Have an exhibition of Devreese productions in view of raising money for a Belgian charity concern. (The Union des femmes patriotiques Belges or the oeuvre du Vieux Veterments, for instance. (I am member of the last one which is under the presidency of the Queen).
3. Apply to a firm of jewelry or silversmiths.

Mr. Devreese would very much like to have an exhibit so as not to be forgotten in the states, and the price he is asking is a reasonable one. The duty would have to be paid by the parties as my funds are rather limited.

I am working since my arrival with the Commission of Relief in Belgium, but have been offered another position and I am likely to accept it.

Medals:

Quantity	Description	
10	Queen & King 90 mm.	Bronze argente
10	ditto 70 mm.	ditto
12	General Leman	ditto
1	Universite	ditto
Plaquettes:		
10	Pendant l'absence	Bronze argente
10	Reverie	ditto
1	l'Aieule	fonte bronze
1	Renouveau	ditto
1	Polonaise (profile)	ditto
12	Assistance discrete	
1	Sadome	galvano argente
1	Aero Club	ditto
1	Escrimeur	bronze argente
1	l'Art	ditto
1	Exposition	ditto
1	Aero Club	ditto
1	Rene Stevens	galvano argente

There is also a small bronze statue called the "lion belge".

Some of these plaquettes and medals are already in your show cases.

August 2nd, 1916.

Mr. Emile John Heidsieck,
c/o Mr. J. S. Neeser,
247 Fifth Avenue,
New York.

Dear Sir:-

I received your letter the other day, and have communicated with one of our members.

I note you state in your letter that you have sent the two little medals of Barges. As yet we have not received these.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

Curator.

431 West Avenue

Bridgeport Conn.

4th Aug. 1916.

Dear Sir,

I have to apologise
for delay in sending the
two medals but I am
now in Bridgeport, work-
-ing for the good cause
at the Remington Works
and as the medals
were in my trunk I

Could not send same
~~pass~~ before.

However I am sending
them to day and hope
they will reach in good
Condition.

I remain

Very truly yours

Wm John Heidsieck
